

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 HA-05
IO-13 /124 W
-----092367 121215Z /41

R 102230Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 884
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, SHUM, MASS, AR, PE, BR, UR
SUBJECT: FONMIN'S REMARKS ON SOVIET DEBT, DEPORTEES, AMAZON PACT

REF: (A) LIMA 4591 (NOTAL) (B) LIMA 5877 (NOTAL)

1. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON THE POPULAR "CONTACTO DIRECTO" ON JULY 9, FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE DE LA PUENTE COMMENTED ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. (OASGA), THE SOVIET UNION, ITALY AND BRAZIL. HE ALSO RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE MAY 25 DEPORTATION OF LEFTIST POLITICANS TO ARGENTINA.

2. DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW (REFTEL C) WAS TO MAINTAIN PERU'S POLICY OF EQUIDISTANT EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT POWERS. HE SAID THAT THE RECENT RE-FINANCING OF PERU'S MILITARY DEBT TO THE SOVIET UNION WAS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS OF RESTRUCTURING PERU'S FOREIGN DEBT, AND THAT THE AMOUNT OF THE DEBT TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR ARMS IS "RELATIVELY IMPORTANT...ABOUT 20 PERCENT OR MORE" OF PERU'S TOTAL DEBT. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PERUVIAN ECONOMY CAN ABSORB THE AMOUNT
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OF THE TOTAL DEBT, IT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THE STRUCTURE OF THE DEBT, THAT IS THE REPAYMENT TERMS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE OASGA, DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT THE PROTECTIONISM OF THE UNITED STATES AS REGARDS COPPER AND SUGAR IS CAUSING A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION NOT ONLY IN PERU BUT ALSO IN OTHER PRODUCING COUNTRIESM THIS SITUATION MUST

BE CHECKED. ALTHOUGH THE USG REASONS FOR ITS PROTECTIONISM MAY BE VALID, IT IS AFFECTING US TERRIBLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER REMARKED.

4. "CONTACTO DIRECTO"'S ALFREDO BARNECHEA ASKED DE LA PUENTE IF HE CONSIDERED THE GOP'S RECENT DEPORTATION OF LEFTIST POLITICANS TO ARGENTINA WHERE THEY WERE TEMPORARILY HELD IN A MILITARY JAIL, TO BE A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (RETELS A AND B). DE LA PUENTE RESPONDED THT THE GOP SENT THE DEPORTEES TO ARGENTINA, NOT TO JAIL, AND THAT BEFORE SENDING THE EXILEES ON TO BUENOS AIRES TO ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES KEPT THEM AT A MILITARY BASE IN ORDER TO TAKE "SECURITY MEASURSS" AND GIVE THEM TEMPORARY IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTED AN IMPLICATION OF BARNECHEA THAT BRAZIL ENTERTAINED IMPERIALISTIC AMBITIONS TOWARD PERU'S AMAZONIAN BASIN. DE LA PUENTE ARGUED THAT PERU'S SIGNING OF THE AMAZON PACT DID NOT RISK ANYTING BUT RATHER OPENED POSSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL CONVENTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH PERU'S PERU SOVEREIGNTY WOULD BE RESPECTED.

6. COMMENT: TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, DE LA PUENTE'S REFERENCE TO SOVIET ARMS PURCHASES AS 20 PERCENT OF TOTAL FOREIGN DEBT IS THE FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY A GOP OFFICIAL OF THE APPROXIMATE MAGNITUDE OF THESE EXPENDITRES. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOWEVER WHETHER DE LA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUENTE WAS REFERRING TO TOTAL DEBT OR OFFICIAL PLUS PRIVATE DEBT.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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